



GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 19

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

May 12, 2006

In brief

Firefighter challenge

Teams interested in Tyndall's 2006 Firefighters Combat Challenge during Safety Day May 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. should contact Michael Newbury at 283-4777 or Master Sgt. Edward Best at 283-4231.

Challenges include a bunker/hydrant drill; bucket brigade; dummy carry; rescue maze; barrel competition and hose roll.

FS changes command

The 2nd Fighter Squadron change of Command is at 3:02 p.m. today in Hangar 2. Lt. Col. James Riemens-Van Laare will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Kevin Murray. For any questions, contact Maj. Mark Postema at 283-2953.

325th SFS demo

The 325th Security Forces Squadron will have their annual display from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 20 at the Commissary. There will be a police car, patrol boat, K-9 vehicle, combat arms display and two all-terrain vehicles. Also, there will be a K-9 demonstration at 11 a.m., and McGruff the Crime Dog will make an appearance.

What's inside

Base bowling champs
... **PAGE 9**

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage month
... **PAGE 13**

The heat is on

Tech. Sgt. Mike Patterson, Det. 1, 823rd RHS Silver Flag instructor, ignites the burn pit during Operation Silver Steed, an exercise held for each of the week-long Silver Flag classes. The burn pit fire will be fought by the "deployed" fire team. For the full story, see pages 10-11.



Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt

McKinley named 15th CMSAF

WASHINGTON - Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley named Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley to serve as the 15th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Chief McKinley will assume his new position July 1, following the June 30 retirement of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. CMSAF Murray's retirement culminates 29 years of service in the Air Force.

"I'm excited to have Chief McKinley take the helm of our

enlisted force," said General Moseley. "Chief McKinley is a tremendous leader with an impressive array of expeditionary and combat experiences to help him steer our Airmen and serve as my partner. We were blessed to have a number of exceptionally well-qualified candidates for the position. While the decision was not an easy one, I feel we have the right person to lead our enlisted force during this time of a long war on terrorism, recapitalization and transformation. I look forward to working with him."

Chief McKinley is currently the command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces. He originally joined the Air Force in 1974, took a break in service in 1977, attended college, and re-entered the Air Force in 1982. Chief McKinley's career includes various assignments in medical, aircraft maintenance, first sergeant duty and as the command chief master sergeant at the 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein AB, Germany; 1st Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia; the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia and 11th Air

Force, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK.

The office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government. The CMSAF serves as a personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families.



1st Lt. Erin Vanderwall

Ahh! Medic!

325th Medical Group personnel, Senior Airman Richard Benkovic, Airman 1st Class Shannon Van Wagner, and Capt. Laronda Clark, treat simulated patient Senior Airman Robert Husky, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron fireman, for a gun shot wound to the arm, during the semi-annual Medical Unit Response Training exercise held here. This training, which is held at Silver Flag, isrequired for many of the medical job skills.

ON THE STREET

95th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: Where would you like to move next and why?



“I'd go back to Kadena. I own a house there and my wife is from Okinawa.”

MASTER SGT. WILLIAM RANSEN
Aircraft Section Chief



“Britain, because I haven't been to that MAJCOM yet and I'd like to go to Europe.”

TECH. SGT. BRANDON SULLIVAN
Weapons Load Technician



“I'd stay here. The people are friendly and there's good weather.”

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
DAMARIS NAJERA**
Weapons Load Technician



“I'm pretty happy here. I'd rather stay here than PCS.”

STAFF SGT. CASSIE BRUNNER
Support Section Specialist

Identify this...



Can you identify this object?
If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with “Identify This” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.
The winner for the May 5 “Identify This” is Senior Airman Jon Summers from 325th Services Squadron. He correctly guessed it was a sea shell. Come claim your prize!

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton325th FW commander
Maj. Susan A. Romanochief, 325th FW public affairs
Capt. Elaine Hunnicutt.....chief, internal information
Senior Airman Sarah McDowell.....editor
2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrellstaff writer
Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga.....staff writer

The *Gulf Defender* is published by the *Panama City News Herald*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Gulf Defender* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or the *Panama City News Herald* of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*. For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Deployed on Mother's Day: *Standing tall with teary eyes*

STAFF SGT. MELISSA KOSKOVICH
U.S. Central Command Air Forces-Forward public affairs

The mutated stick figures on the paper were cheerful. They held hands and stood among flowers. For a brief moment I smiled, then a tear ran down my cheek – I missed my kids.

Deploying has never been easy, especially as a single mom of 6-year-old twin boys, but this time seemed to be the most difficult yet.

I sat in my 10x10 room in the middle of the desert, and wondered what they were doing at that moment.

Their soccer game was today.

I imagined Kaden, the younger of the two (by 15 minutes), scrambling across the soccer field giggling as he went, and Damon, the oldest and boldest, guarding his goalie box with fervor, ready to pounce on the ball if it dared to enter his realm.

I wondered how they were doing in school. Were they brushing their teeth at night? Were they smiling?

I remember the day I left.

Damon told me before I got on the plane, “Mommy, don’t get dead,” and Kaden said in his dramatic tone, “If the bad guys chase you, run faster! Ok?”

In their innocence, they see me as a G.I. Joe, going off to battle to protect the babies and the puppies. They don’t understand the cruel reality of our world.

We are engaged in a global war on terror that affects the safety and security of every American, including my little angels. We face dangerous enemies who want to harm our people, folks who want to destroy our way of life.

All of this whirled around in my mind, and I wondered why I hadn’t put up a fight when the deployment orders were dropped on my desk. I could have tried to get out of it – gotten a waiver, kicked and screamed, but I didn’t.

How could I?

The love I have for them and the desire I have for their safe and happy future is precisely the reason I wear the



Courtesy photo

Damon and Kaden, 6-year old twins of Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich, hold her picture, as they will not be able to see her for Mother's Day due to her deployment.

uniform, and I know I am not alone.

A time of war is a time of sacrifice, and a heavy burden falls on military families. Despite this, we hang stick-figure drawings on our walls, treasure the phone calls, dry our tears and stand tall – for the love of our country, and the love of our families.

Action Line:

Q: My concern is about the bathrooms at the Tyndall Beach Pavilion. They are filthy, with debris and garbage everywhere. Also, there are no garbage cans, or toilet tissue. It could also use general cleaning.

A: The NCO Beach House is currently cleaned on Tuesdays and Thursdays by a custodial contractor. The interior trash cans were removed during the recent renovation project

and were inadvertently not replaced when the restrooms re-opened. Trash cans will be immediately placed inside the facility and should greatly reduce the clutter that currently exists. Also, the custodial contractor will be instructed to service the facility on a Monday and Thursday schedule, closer to the weekend, to help keep up with the increased traffic. Also, our Quality Assurance Evaluators overseeing the custodial contract will monitor this more closely and address any performance concerns with the contractor.

Much of the debris that exists outside of the facility is related to the pavement resurfacing

project that is underway and will be removed upon project completion.

I urge you, like all other Team Tyndall members, to help keep the beach house exterior free of debris the same way we’d do if we saw trash on the beach.

Our base appearance depends on the responsible actions of those who enjoy our first-rate recreational facilities and we ask that everyone take part in keeping our base beautiful. Thank you for raising this issue to our attention. Please contact Capt. Jon Caldwell at 283-2679 if you have other comments or concerns.

Action Line Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response

or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515

MEO	283-2739
MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Tyndall launches ‘Click It or Ticket’ campaign

The 325th Security Forces Squadron is joining with more than 12,000 other State and local law enforcement and highway safety officials in late May for an aggressive national “Click It or Ticket” mobilization to crack down on Florida’s safety belt law violators and to reduce highway fatalities.

“Safety belts clearly save lives. But unfortunately too many folks still need a tough reminder, so we are going to be out in force buckling down on those who are not buckled up,” said Tech Sgt. Scott Brown, 325th SFS NCOIC Police Services. “Unless you want to risk a ticket, or worse - your life, you need to remember to ‘Click It or Ticket’ day and night.”

Nearly one in five Americans (or 18 percent nationally) still fail to regularly wear their safety belts when driving or riding in a motor

vehicle, according to a new report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Among those least likely to buckle up: young males, pickup truck drivers and their passengers, people who live in rural areas, and nighttime drivers.

In Florida, the percentage of drivers and passengers observed not wearing their safety belts is 34 percent. But failure to regularly wear a safety belt can be deadly. According to NHTSA, 31,693 passenger died in traffic crashes during 2004 – and 55 percent of those killed were not wearing their safety belts at the time of the crash.

Sergeant Brown said regular safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. When worn correctly, safety belts have

“Safety belts clearly save lives. But unfortunately too many folks still need a tough reminder, so we are going to be out in force buckling down on those who are not buckled up.”

TECH SGT. SCOTT BROWN
325th SFS NCOIC Police Services

proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger by 45 percent, and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and mini-vans.

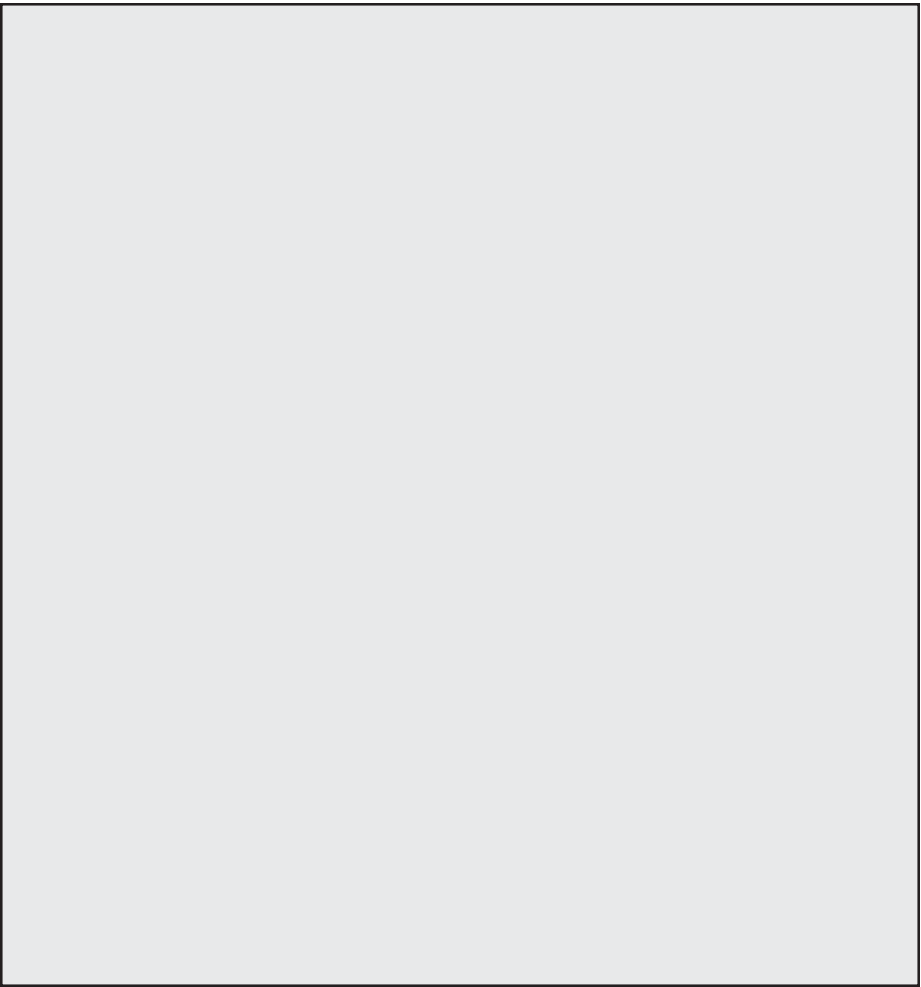
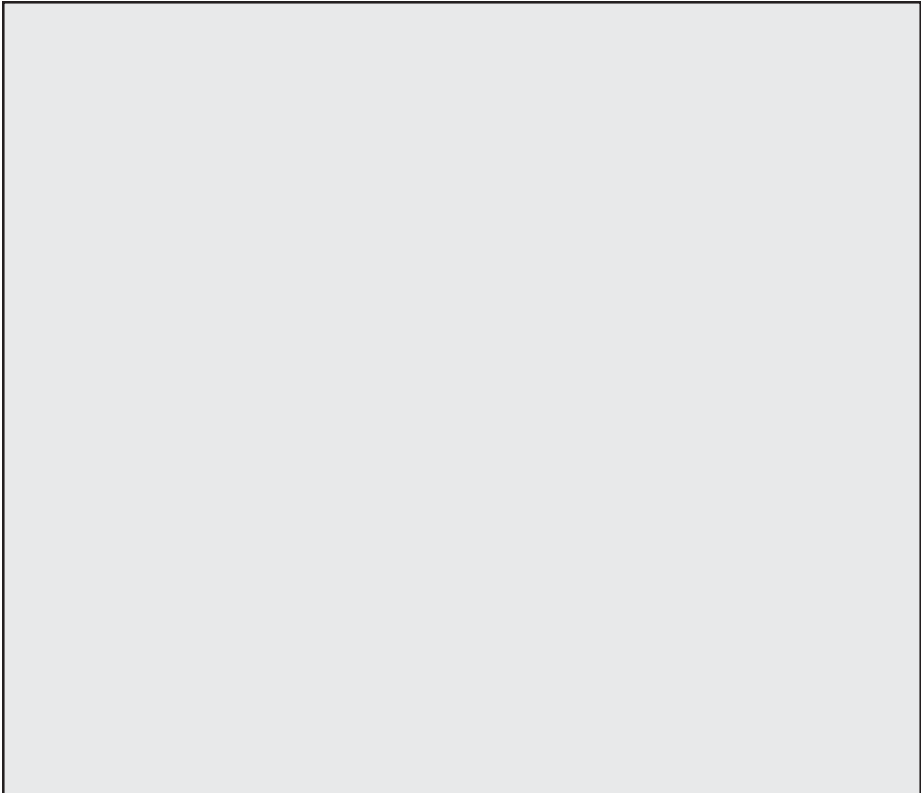
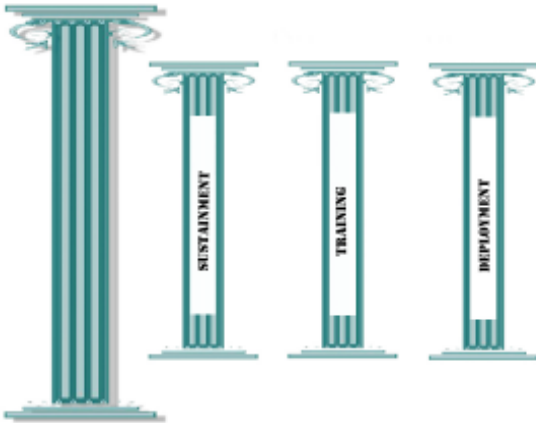
Safety belt checkpoints and other stepped-up law enforcement activities will be conducted during the national “Click It or Ticket” enforcement mobilization, which runs May 22 through June 4. The mobilization is being supported by a projected 2 million dollars in paid national and state advertisements encouraging all Americans, but especially the targeted non-belt users, to always buckle up.

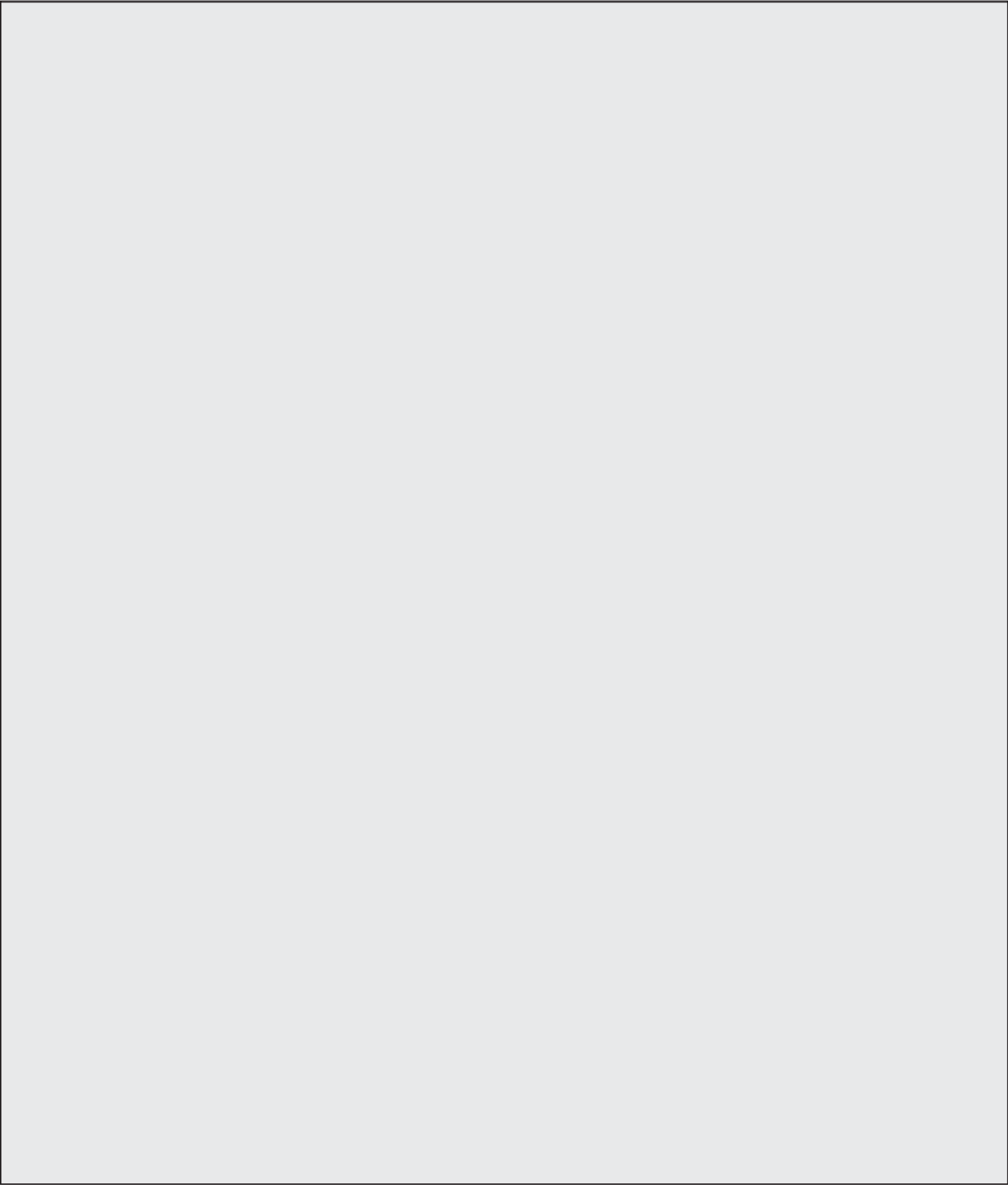
“Too many people still have the attitude that ‘it will never happen to (me).’ But fatal crashes can and do hap-

pen every day. So we will be out in force showing zero tolerance for anyone not buckled up,” Sergeant Brown said. “We’d much rather write a thousand tickets than have to knock on one family’s door with the news that their loved one didn’t survive a crash because they weren’t wearing their safety belt.”

(Contributed by the 325th Security Forces Squadron.)

FORCE PROTECTION





Lieutenants informed of forceshaping Wednesday

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Wednesday, 2,084 lieutenants in the 2002 and 2003 accession year groups learned if they were selected for retention by the Force Shaping Board.

Each officer was notified personally of their status by their senior rater. Officers deployed will be notified by either the deployed commander or their home station senior rater.

The Force Shaping Board, led by a two-star board president, was broken down into panels of five consisting of one brigadier general and four colonels on each panel. Panel members were selected from the career fields of the officers affected.

“The members of this board were charged by the secretary of the Air Force to perform the complex task of right-sizing our junior officer force by specialty,” said Maj. Gen. Glenn Spears, director of force management policy, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, Head-

quarters U.S. Air Force.

“The board members were acutely aware of the magnitude of their role in serving on the first board thus institutionalizing the FSB process and ensuring the officer corps is balanced and sustainable,” General Spears said.

Officers were evaluated for retention based on information in their central selection record. The record contained evaluation reports, decorations and the Retention Recommendation Form.

Officers not selected for retention will be separated no later than Sept. 29 but are still eligible to apply for the Palace Chase or the Blue to Green programs.

“The Air Force values the selfless service and sacrifice of these officers who volunteered to serve,” General Spears said. “We wish them all the best in their future endeavors. It is our hope they will choose to continue their service to our great nation.”

Palace Chase applicants should first contact a local Guard or Reserve recruiter to secure a position and then their local military personnel flight for an application and assistance with filling out the forms. Officers interested in transferring to the Guard or Reserve may avoid a break in service provided they apply by Aug. 1.

Likewise, eligible officers interested in continuing their service in the Army must apply to the Blue to Green program by June 15 to ensure there is no impact on their service dates. Officers should contact their local military personnel flight and the U.S. Army Human Resources Command to begin the process.

Army human resources can be reached at www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opdistacc/IST/CIST.HTM or via the Defense Switched Network at 221-3764 or commercial (703) 325-4471. Applicants must provide the Army a statement of qualification, a physical dated within one

year, the officer’s evaluation reports and copies of their college transcripts.

Those officers looking for opportunities to continue to serve as a civil service employee should visit the Office of Personnel Management Web site at www.usajobs.opm.gov for more information.

Officers not selected for retention will receive an information package explaining any entitlements they may be eligible for like separation pay and their transition benefits such as transitional healthcare coverage and permissive temporary duty. Officers should contact the appropriate base agency for more information regarding the benefits detailed in the package.

For the latest information on force shaping, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/forceshaping/shape.htm.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)



Checkertail Salute

Staff Sgt. Gregory Douyon



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Sergeant Douyon receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Douyon, who has been deployed to Tunisia, Africa in support of a Joint Chief of Staff sponsored operation where he educated more than 100 Tunisian military leaders. He has conducted quality assurance reviews on 712 medical profiles, directed the medical intelligence and record screening process for 185 deployed personnel, attended a seminar to enhance his knowledge of his career and is now pursuing a Master’s Degree in Public Health.

- Duty title:** Public Health Technician
- Time in service:** Six and a half years
- Hometown:** Miami, Fla
- Hobbies:** Fishing, wood-working and spending time with daughter
- Favorite book:** “The Catcher in the Rye”
- Favorite movie:** “Forest Gump”
- Favorite thing about Tyndall:** That the location is great for fishing and is peaceful
- Goals:** To finish Master’s Degree in Public Health
- Pet Peeve:** Over-use of acronyms
- Proudest moment in the military:** Making the rank of staff sergeant

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall’s Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Nathan Block, 325th Operational Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice

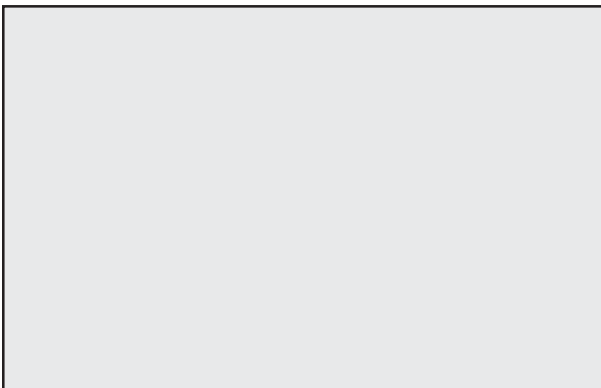
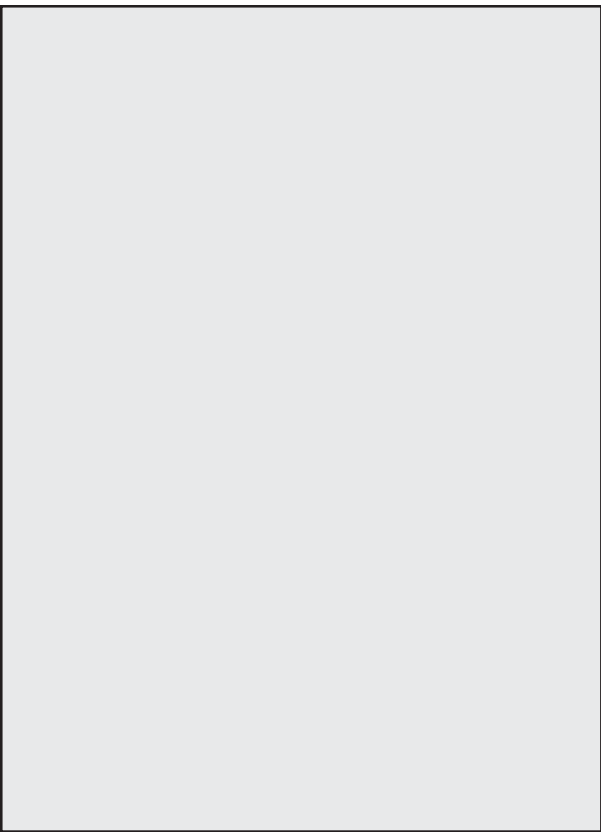


ANONYMOUS. DEPENDABLE. FREE RIDE.

a.a.d.d.

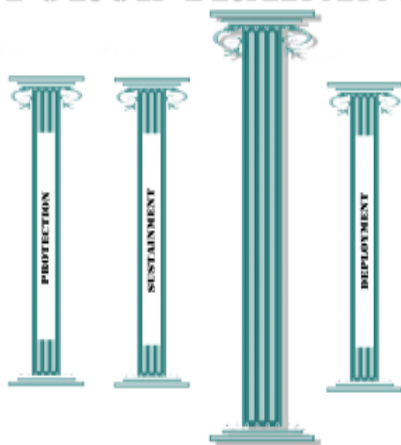
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5:00PM - 5:00AM

AIRMAN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
867-AADD(2233)



Student Focus

FORCE TRAINING



AF leaders encourage Airmen to get education

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two letters addressing the importance of continued education and training for Air Force personnel were issued by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force April 12th. The letters address the current need for academic and professional development and state future changes to education and training requirements for enlisted members and officers.

"We are transforming our processes, streamlining our organizations, recapitalizing our systems and improving the capabilities of our people," said General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force in his Letter to Airmen. "In a smaller, leaner and more expeditionary-focused Air Force, it is essential that our Airmen have the knowledge and competency to accomplish our mission. As we continue to fight this Global War on Terror, we will be conducting operations in both familiar and unfamiliar places, with both old and new friends. And to succeed, our expeditionary Air Force will need all the cultural, political and technical skills available."

And he believes one of the most effective ways to develop this knowledge is through advanced education.

"Total Force Airmen have the opportunity to incorporate higher education into their development through Air Force sponsored degrees, the Community College of the Air Force, or with Tuition Assistance for civilian institutions," said Mr. Michael Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force.

"Officers will see changes such as cultural and language classes added to their (academic) curriculums," he said.

Military training programs and Professional Military Education will become more extensive. Basic Military Training, for example, will be extended by two weeks, "to ensure our new Airmen enter our Air Force battle ready ...," said the Secretary and Chief of Staff. Longer field training exercises and the addition of cultural-awareness training will be the first changes seen at BMT.

"These are just a few of the additions that will be critical to our overall

Changes in Air Force curriculum

- **Officers will see changes such as cultural and language classes added to their (academic) curriculums.**
- **Military training programs and professional military education will become more extensive.**
- **Basic Military Training for enlisted personnel will be extended by two weeks.**
- **Beginning with the calendar-year 2008 central selection boards, information on all degrees earned by an officer will be available to the board.**

Force Development construct. Understanding different languages and different cultures is especially important in the Global War on Terror, where we work with many coalition partners in distant lands," said the Secretary.

Continued education will not only advance the Air Force's technology efforts and war-fighting capabilities, it will impact individual careers.

"We want a change to the officer promotion process that would again provide supervisors, commanders and selection boards information on all academic degrees earned," said the Chief of Staff. "Beginning with the calendar-year 2008 central selection boards, information on all degrees earned by an officer will be available to the board."

According to the Education Center, the initiative will have a significant impact on the services and benefits offered at Tyndall.

"I'm predicting a spike in enrollment," said Mr. Oliver Canaday, Education Center education specialist. "People will be evaluated and their education will now be part of the 'total package' in the promotion process."

"If someone is pursuing an education, or has completed a degree, it's a good indicator showing that the person is willing to work hard and better themselves both academically and professionally."

In support of Air Force initiatives to require language and cultural studies, the Education Center at Tyndall offers Tuition Assistance for degree programs including language courses and cultural curriculum.

"Spanish is offered through the Gulf Coast Community College," said Mr. Canaday. "And you can take distance learning courses for nearly any language you choose. Courses on cultural and social studies are offered on-line as well."

The Tuition Assistance program provides millions of dollars of support each year to those qualified to receive benefits. With current budget constraints affecting programs throughout the Air Force, the possibility of funding shortages in the Tuition Assistance program is a serious concern for those interested in continuing their education.

"The indication is that the program will stay fully funded," Mr. Canaday said. "The current program caps at \$4,500 per year and \$250 per semester hour. This typically covers 100 percent of tuition costs for most programs. And with the Secretary and Chief of Staff's focus on education, I predict adequate funding will be allocated to support the program," he said.

"Developing people to lead the world's best air, space and cyberspace force takes the personal commitment of all Airmen - a commitment to focus on developing ourselves and encouraging our fellow Airmen to learn as much as possible about the complexities of our profession of arms," said the Secretary. "I am committed to supporting you as you take on these new challenges."

For more information on Tuition Assistance offered here, contact the Education Center at 283-4285.

Training Spotlight

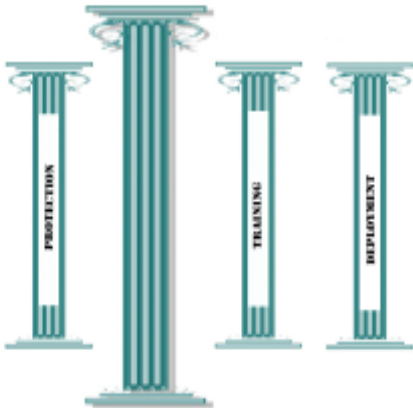
How do you feel about the initiative to include degree program information on performance reports so that education can be weighed in the promotion process?

"The more information promotion boards have about an individual, the better decision making ability the board will have."



2ND LT. RAYMOND KIDD
325th Air Control Squadron
air battle manager

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Youth have a ball at pitch, hit, run competition

The pitch, hit and run competition held April 29 at the Tyndall Youth Center was a free national program that gave boys and girls ages 7 to 14 the chance to showcase their baseball abilities.

The winners are:

Ages 7-8	Ages 11-12
<i>Overall Champion</i>	<i>Overall Champion</i>
Grant Anderson	James Geraci
<i>Pitch Champion</i>	<i>Pitch Champion</i>
Grant Anderson	Tyler Cavanaugh
<i>Hit Champion</i>	<i>Hit Champion</i>
Grant Anderson	Laura Van De Walle
<i>Run Champion</i>	<i>Run Champion</i>
Grant Anderson	James Geraci

Ages 9-10	Ages 13-14
<i>Overall Champion</i>	<i>Overall Champion</i>
Jaylen Nelson	William Owens
<i>Pitch Competition</i>	<i>Pitch Champion</i>
Anthony Schultz	William Owens
<i>Hit Competition</i>	<i>Hit Champion</i>
Jaylen Nelson	William Owens
<i>Run Champion</i>	<i>Run Champion</i>
Jaylen Nelson	William Owens



Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

Strike!

Zachory Bucher, bowler for the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit Team 3, throws the ball during the championship game on Friday. AMU 3 beat the 325th Maintenance Squadron Team 1 Friday and became the base bowling champions.



Chrissy Cutitta

Gotcha!

The paintball field located off Sabre Drive on Tyndall is open daily for those with equipment from dawn to dusk. The site is manned by a contractor every Saturday, where equipment is available. For more information, visit www.flightline-paintball.com.



(Top) Firefighters, participating in Silver Flag, extinguish a fire during a simulated plane crash at Operation Silver Steed. (Right) Staff Sergeants Jessica Packard, 355th Civil Engineer Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB Ariz.; Mark Merrill, 96th CES, Eglin AFB Fla.; and Christopher Smiley, 99th CES, Nellis AFB, Nev., egress a pilot from a simulated accident during Operation Silver Steed in April at Tyndall AFB. (Bottom) Firefighters rush to extinguish a fire and secure a site following a mock aircraft crash on the Silver Flag compound at Tyndall AFB.



RED HORSE Silver Flag: Ensuring

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CAPT. J. ELAINE HUNNICUTT

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Every day men and women are killed in the line of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan; many due to improvised explosive devices and land mines. Some of our bravest Airmen are the first on the ground in these austere locations. They put themselves in harm's way to ensure that the rest of the Air Force has runways, water, tents and kitchens.

So where do they learn the skills to check for landmines before bedding down a camp for 700 plus Airmen (550, of which are, follow-on to your team)? Where do you learn how to crawl through caves, disarm explosives and get the basic commerce system established with the indigenous people of a foreign land?

"It is our intention to provide the students with the knowledge they need to increase survivability and to perform their

jobs before, during and after an attack," said Tech. Sgt. Willie Walker, Silver Flag instructor.

Here at Tyndall Air Force Base, those who have gone before, learned many of these lessons on the job and have lived to tell about it ... have come here to teach those who will deploy and follow in their footsteps. At the Detachment 1, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, 1 Silver Flag compound, 10 miles from the main base, up-to-the-minute practices from the battlefield are being taught in the classroom.

"When something happens in the AOR (deployed area of responsibility) and we need to react; we add it to the curriculum," said Chief Master Sgt. Joe Wright, Det. 1, 823rd RHS site chief.

More than 10,000 Airmen are trained annually from civil engineers, contractors, services, personnel, finance, manpower, and communications squadrons around the country.

"When you hear the explosions on Monday and see

more black smoke on Wednesday, you know what we are doing out here: training the best of the best," said Maj. Ann Birchard, Det. 1, 823rd RHS commander.

The training begins on Sunday when the class arrives; it is a mixture of Airmen from various bases and specialties.

Monday through Wednesday, the students learn techniques and up-to-date scenarios that their counterparts are facing on the battlefield.

"We devote to functional-area hands-on skills training, incorporating scenarios and lessons learned from the AOR to provide realism," said Maj. Birchard.

The curriculum has shifted focus and become more concentrated over the years. The students learn their concentrated specialties in the classroom and apply them in an environment free of home-base constraints, so that they are able to better prepare for operations in a de-



Technical Sergeant Michael Beckman, 796th Civil Engineer Squadron Eglin AFB, Fla. and Staff Sergeant Alfred Bernard, 45th CES Patrick AFB, Fla. reset the BAK 12, a cable used to recover aircraft with failed breaks or other emergency issues on departure or landing. The aircraft catches the cable with a discharged hook.



Tech. Sgt. Ann Galbreath, 96th Services Squadron, Eglin AFB; and Senior Airman Octavius Presley, 7th SVS Dyess AFB, Texas, serve chow to almost 200 deployed Airmen during Operation Silver Steed in April at Tyndall AFB.

ng successful AF deployments

ployed environment.

They are provided the knowledge to succeed before putting it to the test. When things go wrong, the scenario is stopped, corrected and restarted to ensure optimal learning experiences for the students.

"We can't set them up to fail; this is training. They will train 'til the day they deploy; the purpose is for them to succeed on the battlefield," said Chief Wright.

"We are allowed to concentrate on specific (job) skills – this is the only place we can practice war-time skills," said Lt. Col. Michael Furey, 45th CES commander from Patrick AFB (second-time student).

"It is more realistic every time I come through; the more hands-on experience during training, the better they will perform in the field," said Colonel Furey.

Thursday, they put this new-found knowledge to the test during an exercise that lasts from dawn to well after dusk.

During that exercise contractors will be tasked to establish relationships with local businesses in simulated foreign lands. Local customs and communication barriers will be faced.

"Instructors provide a realistic imitation of conversations and transactions that will be faced in theater," said Chief Wright.

The firefighters will fight fires, mortuary affairs teams will recover and process bodies, cooks will set up and feed hundreds.

"If they want to eat or take a shower, then they have to figure out how they are going to make it happen and do it, keeping in mind the mission that they have been given to accomplish," said Chief Wright.

"I learned to put up a triple S (Small Shelter System); I gained a lot and learned a lot of information. I have never worked in a Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen," said Senior Airman Octavius Presely from the Services Squad-

ron at Dyess AFB, Texas.

The class has changed for the better according a Silver Flag veteran. "This is my second time going through the course. This time there is less work during the week and more education in concentrated areas; they broke it down more," said Tech. Sgt. Annie Galbreath, 96th Services Squadron at Eglin AFB.

For more information about becoming a cadre member on the RED HORSE Silver Flag staff in any of the above mentioned specialties see the Assignment Management System advertisements for special duty.

The assignments are also listed on the Equal Plus list. A general overview of the Silver Flag mission can be seen at <https://silverflag.tyndall.af.mil/>. For information about upcoming vacancies, call Chief Wright at (850) 283-8702.

Briefs

BX holiday hours

The Memorial Day holiday hours are as follows for Base Exchange facilities: Main store, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shoal Point, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Class Six, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Felix Lake, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Anthony's Pizza, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., GNC, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The rest of the Facilities will be closed.

Community Center hours

The Community Center has new hours of operation Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. They will now be closed Saturday and Sunday. The Community Center is in Building 1027 located on Louisiana Ave. For more information, call 283-2495.

Get paid for shopping online

Authorized customers may apply to become a "Mystery Shopper" via www.aafes.com. Shoppers are selected from a pool of applicants at each Exchange location and as appreciation for their time, "Mystery Shoppers" receive a \$30 Army Air Force Exchange Services gift certificate for each valid survey.

Treating periodontal disease

Gum disease or periodontal disease is a major cause of tooth loss in adults. This disease often progresses slowly, without pain, over a long period of time. This is one reason why it is common in older adults. The longer the disease goes undetected and uncontrolled, the more damage it causes to gums and other supporting tissues. Although periodontal disease is caused by plaque, other factors can increase the risk or severity of the condition. These include food left between the teeth, smoking, smokeless (spit) tobacco, badly aligned teeth, ill fitting bridges or partial dentures, poor diets, and systemic diseases such as anemia. Prevention of periodontal disease is simple. Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste and clean in between your teeth at least once a day with floss to help prevent plaque from forming. Also see your dentist annually for your dental exam and cleaning.

TRICARE online registration

Tyndall's Family Practice is almost completely Web enabled with the Department of Defense's TRICARE Online Internet medical portal. Beneficiaries can register for TRICARE online at www.tricareonline.com or call Tricare customer service at 1-800-600-9332. Agents are available 24 hours a day to assist beneficiaries.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 12 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. Heart Link is a fun-filled, fast-paced, information-packed, orientation that can benefit every Air Force spouse. The presenters include the 325th Fighter Wing commander; representatives from protocol; military personnel; finance; family support; services; legal; health & wellness; family advocacy, the chapel; and TRICARE. There are games, skits, and prizes throughout the day. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Family Support Center at 283-4205.

OSC positions available

The Officers' Spouses' Club board is looking for chairpeople for the upcoming year. No experience is necessary, just a great attitude and the desire to work with a team. For more information, please contact LeAnne Daniel, ed.daniel@comcast.com or 230-0698.

Thrift Shop position available

The Thrift Shop manager position will be available by June. If you are interested in taking over this Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club paid position, please contact the current manager, Donna Dickerson, at 286-5484.

Thrift Shop hours

Consignments are 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday – Thursday. The Thrift Shop is in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. Personnel with PCS orders may consign 80 items, of which 40 may be in-season clothing. They can consign one time starting 60 days prior to departure to 60 days



Staff Sgt. Stacey Haga

Check!

Staff Sgt. Jody McMickle, 325th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, conducts a random car inspection at Illinois Gate. The squadron was presented a morale check for \$1,553.70 Friday morning by Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, to purchase air conditioners and bug zappers for each gate's guard station here.

after arrival, by appointment. A copy of PCS orders is required. For more information, call 286-5888.

5K run, children's fun run

The Naval Diving & Salvage Training Center and Friends of St. Andrew's State Park will host both the Copper Collar 5K Run and one-mile youth fun run June 3 at St. Andrew's State Park. Registration and

package pick up starts at 6:30 a.m.

The youth run starts at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K starts at 8:15 a.m. A post-race social and awards ceremony starts after the runs at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 a person for 5K, \$5 for youth, \$60 a team, plus a \$5 registration fee. Register at www.active.com or visit www.wnt.cnet.navy.mil/ndstc/ to view and print application or contact james.comerford@navy.mil.



Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday–Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,
Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.,
Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m.,
Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service,
9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service,
11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship,
5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)

Bonehead greeting

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, speaks to (retired) Col. Ben Mason, former 82nd Fighter Group commander during a fly-by and retreat ceremony held at Flag Park Friday. The 95th Fighter Squadron was in the 82nd FG. Sixty former members of the 95th Fighter Squadron, (a.k.a "The Bone Heads) along with more than 30 of their guests participated in the Bonehead Reunion from Thursday to Saturday. The era that the members were in the squadron spanned from World War II.



Isaac Gibson

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates, educates cultural differences

The month of May gives military members another opportunity to learn about a culture that entered the forces July 23, 1863.

May is Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and there are many interesting facts about the culture to be learned.

Celebrating Asian-Pacific American heritage started when President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution in 1978 designating an annual Asian-Pacific celebration, then in 1990 President George Bush designated May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage month.

But, the story of how America integrated with

this culture begins when Spanish traders brought Chinese and Filipino people to Mexico. In the 1700s the people migrated to New Orleans and set up a Filipino community on the Louisiana Bayou. In the 1830s was when Chinese people were first recorded being in America, mainly working in New York City, and later, the California gold rush of 1848 also attracted Chinese prospectors. America won the Hawaii and the Philippines territory in 1898 from Spain during the Spanish-American War.

In 1863, Ah Hang, was the first Asian American to enter the U.S. military when he enlisted in

the Navy during the American Civil War.

Currently there are 1,600 Asian American officers and 8,100 Asian American enlisted members in the Air Force. There are 284,000 Asian-American veterans of the military and 29,000 native Hawaiian or other Pacific-Islander veterans.

The Asian Pacific Islander culture has also had many influences on the American Culture, as far as entertainment, food and fashion. To experience some of the events around Tyndall, call Capt. Cheryl Shewbert at 283-3482.

(Compiled by the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.)



Courtesy Graphic

Tyndall engineers 'remote' mine-clearing vehicle

MINDY COOPER

Air Force Research Laboratory

Tyndall engineers created a remote mine-clearing device for deployed civil engineers in response to an Air Combat Command request which will soon be put to the test by the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

"We're looking forward to sending our MACV to the Middle East during our current deployment, so that we can work with the Army to develop an organic mine clearing capability for the Air Force; this will allow us to clear areas at deployed locations in order to provide safe areas for construction associated with base expansion," said Lt. Col. Dave Eaton, 823rd RED HORSE deputy commander at Hurlburt Air Force Base, Fla.

ACC made the request for a remote device to remove Airmen and Soldiers from harm's way. ACC's RED HORSE is an appropriate test bed because they deploy with heavy construction equipment to austere locations where minefield clearing is a probable obstacle.

"The warfighter comes first in all we do," said Marshall Dutton, Air Force Research Laboratory.

The device, the Hydrema 910 (Mine Clearance Vehicle) MCV-2 Flail System, hereafter referred to as the Mine Area



Courtesy photos

The Mine Area Clearance Vehicle is seen using its flail in a mine-clearing operation. The vehicle was recently converted to remote operation by the Air Force Research Laboratory Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Airbase Technology Division Force Protection Branch located at Tyndall AFB.

Clearance Vehicle, was found to be a suitable vehicle for the task.

Once the vehicle was selected, the MACV was delivered to Tyndall's Advanced Robotics Team and the Joint Architecture for Unmanned Systems, a di-

rectorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory, where it was equipped with the remote system. The conversion took nine months.

"(It) is not the total answer for clearing unexploded ordnances, but when used as part of the 'total-system' approach, (with) explosive detection dogs and electronic mine detectors, one can be reasonably assured there are no mines," said Mr. Dutton.

The system is operated via radio frequency using a locally-developed joystick controller, a laptop computer, and an Operator Control Station that houses the Ethernet and power for the system.

A high-end differential Global Positioning System was integrated which allows the remote operator to more accurately control the vehicle and which provides positioning feedback.

It was found that the remote operator can be up to a mile away, without any major obstructions between the antenna at the operators' end and the MACV.

The MACV is a commercially available mine clearing system designed by Hydrema, a Danish commercial heavy equipment manufacturer.

The vehicle is integrated into an articulated chassis so that all four wheels are in contact with the ground at all times. When being driven on roads, the cab is

to the front of the vehicle; however, during mine clearing operations, the vehicle is driven in reverse with the cab to the rear.

The vehicle is powered by two Perkins 1006-6TW six-cylinder turbocharged diesel engines.

One is used for driving the vehicle and is coupled to a six-speed semi-automatic transmission. The second engine powers the mine-clearing flails.

During mine-clearing operations, a separate hydrostatic transmission is used which gives a continuously variable speed and considerable force. The complete flail system (a chain-like till) can be rapidly lowered into position at the rear of the vehicle and can clear a mine path 3.5 meters wide.

The chains rotate clockwise if mines are buried, and anti-clockwise if they are on the surface. The flail assembly consists of a rotating axle with 72 chains attached; the end of each of these is fitted with a hammer type head which weighs 0.9kg.

During mine clearing, the vehicle can be manually operated from the cab using a joystick, or it can be remotely operated through the use of a computerized fully automatic pilot steering system.

(Capt. Elaine Hunnicutt contributed to this article.)



Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt

Bill Lewis, AFRL, inspects the remote hydrema mine flail developed for the MACV by the AFRL Robotics Research Group located at Tyndall AFB.

Congratulations to Tyndall’s Airman Leadership School graduates

Andrea Anderson, 325th ACS
Angel Arias, 325th MOS
Tyler Atkins, 325th MXS
Richard Benkovics, 325th MOS
Michelle Brown, 325th OSS
Ryan Byrne, 325th AMXS
Christopher Burgoa, 325th AMXS
Noe Castro, 325th SFS
Shamika Clair, 325th MDOS
Franklin Cruz, 325th SFS
Ryan Cunningham, 325th AMXS
Matthew Duvall, 325th MXS
Sergio Escalera, 325th ADS
Terrence Freeman, 951st RSS
Jason Gauna, 325th AMXS
Inishia George, 95th FS
Patricia Griffin, 131st LRS
Stacey Haga, 325th FW

Daniel Hawk, 325th AMXS
Cortny Hughes, 325th OSS
Antionette Jackson, 147 LRS
Richard Journagin, 325th MXS
Jared Keller, 325th SFS
Gordon Kimura, 325th AMXS
Gary Lyons, 83rd FWS
Tanya Martinez, 325th CS
Stephen Mccool, AFCESA
Kelson Nisbett, 325th SFS
Aaron Ogan, 178th CFT
Jeremy Parker, 325th AMXS
Stephanie Pyles, 325th CES
Steven Raethel, DET 2 66 TRS
Aaron Scott, 325th AMXS
Jeremy Schuster, 325th AMXS
Michael Rutkowski, 83rd FWS
Andrew Whitehead, 325th AMXS

Joshua Thomas, 325th AMXS
Chad Thompson, 325th AMXS
Christopher Young, 325th MXS
Kevin Watts, 325th SFS

Award winners

John L. Levitow Award

Steven Raethel, DET 2 66 TRS

Academic Award

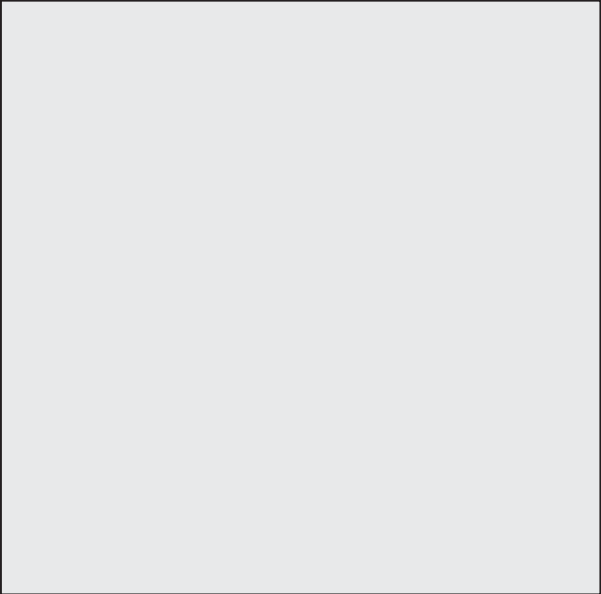
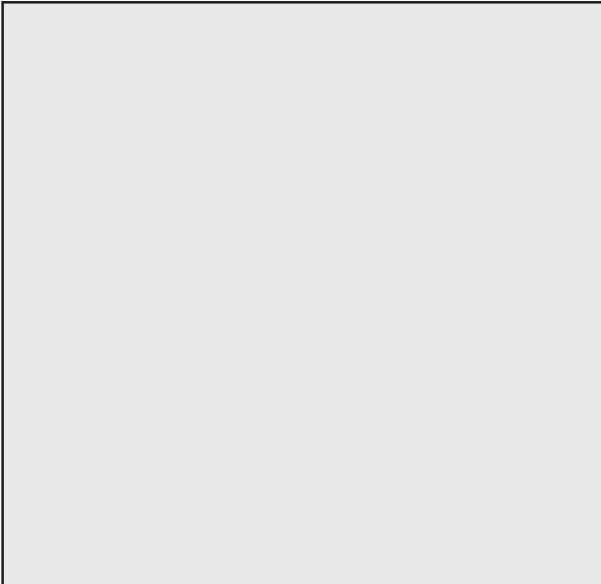
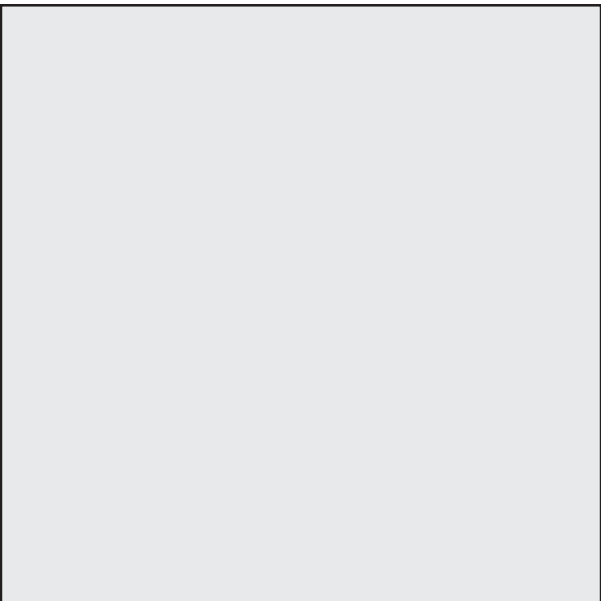
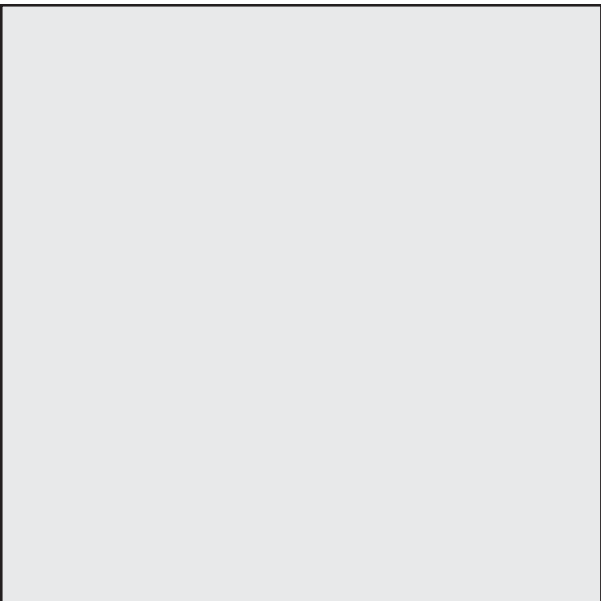
Stephen Mccool, AFCESA

Leadership Award

Aaron Ogan, 178th CFT

Distinguished Graduates

Richard Benkovics, 325th MOS
Stephen Mccool, AFCESA
Andrew Whitehead, 325th AMXS





Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

☆ Log onto the NEW & IMPROVED Web site ☆

www.325thservices.com

RAPTOR REPAIR INC.
Tyndall AFB, FL

**Automotive
Watercraft
Motorcycle
ATV**

Service & Repair
258-0011

Rob Hoskins Sheldon Segebart

**\$25,000
in scholarship
awards!**

Complete your
entry form
today!




An exclusive benefit only for
Air Force Club members

See your Club
Manager for
details. Or visit •
www-p.afsv.af.mil/clubs

Book Sale
May 25-27 9a.m. - 5:30p.m.
May 28 1p.m. - 5:30p.m.

◆ Books ◆ CD's
◆ Videos ◆ DVD's

283-4287



**Sealed Bid
Auction**

1987 Chevy R30
and
1993 GMC Sierra
2500

Vehicles may be viewed in the
parking lot behind
113 Suwannee Road,
Bldg 1129.

Bids will be placed inside
Bldg 1129, Room 10.

Call Sarah Lee at 283-4794.

Item sold as is.
Bids will be accepted through
noon May 22.

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

Duty Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)

(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your Yes ☐ No ☐
attention?

Do you feel there is a good mix of Yes ☐ No ☐
local, command and Air Force-level
news?

Do the photos encourage you to
read accompanied articles?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read
and follow?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting
in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the
paper, what would it be? _____

Comments: _____

Associate Spotlight

Lt. Col. Karen White



Steve Wallace


Duty title: Air Force Utilities Litigation Team chief
Time in Service: 19 years
Hometown: Tucson, Ariz.
Hobbies: Reading, crafts
Favorite book: "The One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey" by Ken Blanchard
Favorite movie: "Sound of Music"
Goals: Raise my daughters to be productive, well-balanced adults. Score 90 on my fitness test and make a contribution to the Air Force daily
Pet Peeves: People who don't pull their weight in an organization
Proudest moment in the military: Watching members of my staff, at another base, pull together to help a co-worker battling cancer

The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall's tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and other items presented by their unit.

Colonel White receives the Associate Spotlight award from Col. Gus Elliot, Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency commander.

The Checkertail clan salutes Colonel White, Air Force Utilities Litigation Team chief. The team saves taxpayers dollars. Her contract and fiscal law experience saved the Air Force millions of dollars last year when she successfully argued against a proposed rate hike that would have impacted several bases .

Help Us Conserve



YOU HAVE the POWER.

